

CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

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**CALIFORNIA MEDICAL ASSISTANCE COMMISSION****State Capitol, Room 113****Sacramento, CA****Minutes of Meeting****May 12, 2005****COMMISSIONERS PRESENT**

Nancy E. McFadden, Chair
Diane M. Griffiths
Teresa P. Hughes
Vicki Marti
Cathie Bennett Warner

CMAC STAFF PRESENT

J. Keith Berger, Executive Director
Enid Barnes
Theresa Bueno
Paul Cerles
Denise DeTrano
Holland Golec
Steve Soto
Michael Tagupa
Mervin Tamai
Carol Tate
Karen Thalhammer

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT

Marco Firebaugh
Lynn Schenk

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Bob Sands, Department of Finance
Sunni Burns, Department of Health Services

I. Call to Order

The May 12, 2005 open session meeting of the California Medical Assistance Commission (CMAC) was called to order by Chair Nancy E. McFadden. A quorum was present.

At this time, Chair McFadden took a few minutes to inform the Commission that the Speaker of the Assembly, Fabian Nuñez, has appointed Marco Firebaugh to the Commission. She indicated that Commissioner Firebaugh had intended to be at today's Commission meeting; however, due to unforeseen circumstances he was unable to attend.

II. Approval of Minutes

The April 28, 2005 meeting minutes were approved as prepared by CMAC staff.

III. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Berger reported that there were no new requests from hospitals or health plans to appear before the Commission in closed session at this time.

Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that there were 21 amendments and new contracts for action during today's closed session as well as some updates and strategic discussions on current negotiations and negotiation strategies.

Mr. Berger informed the Commissioners that there were some regulations released by the federal government regarding funds available for emergency care for undocumented immigrants. The funds allocated are about \$250 million per year for the next four years. California hospitals are expected to receive about \$70 million per year for the next four years.

Mr. Berger noted that CMAC had received phone calls from hospitals asking when CMAC was going to start the distribution of these federal funds. Mr. Berger said that the federal government will be distributing the funds and that CMAC is not part of that process. Mr. Berger stated that as he understands it, hospitals will submit their claims to the federal government and will have to provide answers to selected questions asked of the patients for documentation purposes. Mr. Berger further noted that it was his understanding that the hospitals will be able to submit their claims within a couple of weeks, but will not start receiving payment for those claims until around September.

In response to Chair McFadden's question, Mr. Berger indicated that there will not be a list of hospitals eligible for these funds, because each hospital will submit its own claims, and funds will be distributed in response to each claim.

Mr. Berger asked Sunni Burns if she could give the Commission an update on the action taken by the California Congressional Delegation on the hospital waiver.

Ms. Burns indicated that the complete California Delegation sent a letter to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) supporting the Administration's proposed Medicaid hospital financing waiver, which was at the urging of the hospital industry. The waiver has not been finalized, but the State is anticipating action within the next couple of weeks.

In response to a question from Commissioner Griffiths, Ms. Burns indicated that the hospital association is in support of the proposal.

IV. Medi-Cal Managed Care Activities

Mr. Berger indicated that there was nothing new to report at this time.

V. New Business/Public Comments/Adjournment

There being no further new business and no additional comments from the public, Chair Nancy McFadden recessed the open session. Chair McFadden opened the closed session, and after closed session items were addressed, adjourned the closed session, at which time the Commission reconvened in open session. Chair McFadden announced that the Commission had taken action on hospital contracts and amendments in closed session. The open session was then adjourned.